

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 300233

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENGR, PFOR, CG, US, SA

SUBJECT: BULA ASKS US HELP WITH POL

1. ZAIRIAN CHARGE NDAGANO CALLED ON ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY MULCAHY DECEMBER 19 TO RELAY APPEAL FROM FOREIGN MINISTER BULA IN PARIS FOR U.S. HELP WITH URGENT PETROLEUM SUPPLY PROBLEM. BULA'S MESSAGE WAS: (1) SUPPLIES WILL BE EXHAUSTED IN A WEEK; (2) MISSION LED BY DIRECTOR OF FONMIN OFFICE OF COOPERATION HAS BEEN DISPATCHED TO JIDDA TO SEEK URGENT SHIPMENT; AND (3) GOZ WANTS USG TO INTERCEDE DIPLOMATICALLY WITH SAUDI GOVERNMENT AND PROVIDE FINANCIAL GUARANTEE FOR WHATEVER OIL THE SAUDIS PROVIDE.

2. CHARGE HAD NO IDEA HOW MUCH MONEY MIGHT BE INVOLVED. MULCAHY TOLD HIM WE WOULD CABLE KINSHASA TO GET DETAILS. HE FRANKLY EXPLAINED HOW DIFFICULT A FINANCIAL GUARANTEE WOULD BE FOR US IN VIEW OF OUR ALREADY SUBSTANTIAL ASSISTANCE COMMITMENT TO ZAIRE AND CONCERN IN THE CONGRESS THAT WHAT WE ARE DOING FOR ZAIRE IS DISPROPORTIONATE TO OUR ASSISTANCE ELSEWHERE IN AFRICA.

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3. BULA'S REQUEST IS IMPRECISE AND UNCLEAR. IF ZAIRE

IS A WEEK FROM EXHAUSING ITS OIL, A MISSION TO SAUDI ARABIA NOW ISN'T GOING TO AVERT A BREAK IN SUPPLY. ACCORDING TO LATEST EMBASSY SITREP, ZAIRE HAS ENOUGH CRUDE AND PRODUCT TO MEET ITS NEEDS UNTIL ABOUT THIRD WEEK OF JANUARY. FINANCIAL GUARANTEE AND INTERCESSION WITH SAUDIS WOULD BE INDEPENDENT RATHER THAN COMPLEMENTARY ACTIONS. WITH A GUARANTEE, NO INTERCESSION WOULD BE NECESSARY, AND IF WE WERE TO INTERCEDE IT WOULD BE TO GET THE SAUDIS TO TAKE THE FINANCIAL RISK.

4. PLEASE PROVIDE SOONEST DETAILS OF ZAIRIAN SUPPLY SITUATION AND SPECIFICS AND TIMING OF REQUEST BEING MADE TO SAUDI GOVERNMENT, AS WELL AS ASSESSMENT OF ALTERNATIVE POSSIBILITIES OF MEETING ZAIRE'S SHORT-TERM FUEL REQUIREMENTS. WHAT IS STATUS OF ZAIRE'S REQUEST TO SOUTH AFRICA FOR \$50 MILLION FINANCIAL GUARANTEE TO COVER FOUR MONTHS OF CRUDE AND PRODUCT REQUIREMENTS?

5. YOU SHOULD NOT ENCOURAGE GOZ AT THIS TIME TO THINK THAT WE WILL MAKE PITCH IN JIDDA. KISSINGER

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